

OCT 04 2001

DAVID WARD: For the record, my name is David

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10 Ward, D-a-v-i-d W-a-r-d. I'm not here representing an
11 organization, but rather I'm here representing Nevada
12 parents. I was very proud of my daughter who spoke
13 earlier and expressed her feelings very eloquently.
14 Also, for the record, I would like to ask a question.

15 For those of you who don't work for
16 contractors and don't work for the Department of Energy,
17 may I see the hands of the people in the room who are in
18 favor of locating the nuclear waste repository at Yucca
19 Mountain? Let the record indicate not one single person
20 raised their hands.

21 You know, all of this is very clear. We're
22 having these so-called public hearings without adequate
23 notice, which makes it a sham, but in my mind's eye, any
24 kind of hearing where there's no real listening isn't a
25 hearing after all anyway.

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1 I would like for those of you who do work for
2 contractors or who do work for the Department of Energy
3 to listen to what I have to say and what my concerns are.

4 Nevada doesn't want this site, that's clear,
5 that's been clear for a long time. Different people,

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6 different Nevadans have different reasons. Mine is the
7 health and safety of our children.

8 You know, my grandfather was a scientist, a
9 brilliant man, but science in humanity is in its infancy,
10 and when you talk about science with respect to nuclear
11 projects, it's not infant, it's more like an embryo. We
12 don't really understand it yet, and there's so much of
13 science we don't understand. We didn't understand in the
14 '50s when they conducted above-ground nuclear testing and
15 the government said, that's fine, no problem at all, that
16 it was going to cause cancer to who knows how many
17 people.

18 Amanda is my daughter, but I have a son as
19 well. His name is Ryan. He's a beautiful child. I'm
20 very proud of him. He has cerebral palsy and he's
21 severely mentally retarded and he's a very happy and
22 giving child, but 19 years ago when he was born, he had
23 major medical problems. His intestines were actually
24 outside of his stomach wall, and he had to be born -- he
25 had to be transported by emergency medical airplane over

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1 the Sierras in utero, before he was born, and he was born
2 at Moffet Hospital, which deals with problem infants from

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3 all over the world.

4 At the time that my son was born there were

5 other cases, one of whom from a family we knew and

6 another, almost the same time, a family from Fallon, I

7 believe, who gave -- who gave birth to children with

8 similar kinds of very rare anomalies, and the nurses who

9 worked in the intensive care unit said, I don't know if

10 this is genetic or if it's environmental, so they did

11 genetic testing. There was no genetic reason for it.

12 They said it must be some environmental cause. We don't

13 know what it was, scientists don't know what it was, but

14 it was there.

15 Now, my heart goes out today to the parents

16 of the more than a dozen children suffering from

17 leukemia, two of whom have already died in Fallon. We

18 don't know what environmental cause created that

19 monstrosity there, but whatever it is, it pales to the

20 potential catastrophe that could be caused by this.

21 Having a nuclear waste dump in Yucca Mountain

22 is a bad idea. Having nuclear waste is a bad idea. It's

23 mankind intentionally creating deadly poison for

24 ourselves and for our environment. There is no good

25 solution to getting rid of it, but I'll tell you what,

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1 going to Yucca Mountain definitely isn't it. Nevadans
2 don't want it. It's a travesty that it's being forced
3 down Nevada's throat. You know, it is so undemocratic,
4 and it's not being powered by science. Don't even
5 believe for a moment this has anything to do with
6 science. It is strictly financial. It's money and
7 politics, that's all it is. It's the enormous amount of
8 money at stake for the nuclear power industry and the
9 incredible amounts of money that have been stuffed into
10 the pockets of Washington legislators helping to juice
11 this process.

12 It is an incredible travesty, and I would ask
13 every employee here of a contractor or the Department of
14 Energy to picture your children living in Fallon, dealing
15 with that unseen, ununderstood poison that is killing
16 them, and to unleash that to a scale of many magnitude of
17 whatever it is they're dealing with in Fallon. It is
18 really a criminal act, and I would ask you to listen to
19 your hearts and say -- and decide if you can really
20 justify the potential of bringing a project -- no matter
21 how many scientists come up and say this is a safe
22 project, the scientists said that above-ground nuclear
23 testing was safe, and let's face it, we simply don't

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24 understand the danger to our environment, but we do know

25 one thing: Nuclear waste is one of the most poisonous

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1 deadly substances on earth. Please don't bring it to

2 Nevada. This says, "Nevada Is Not A Wasteland." Please

3 don't make it one.

4 Thank you.